

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to change wording to be consistent with U.S. patent law practice.

Claim 1 has been further amended to change the term "cyclic group" to "monocyclic group". This change is supported in original Claims 2, 3 and 4 where X_1 and X_2 are defined as "a benzene ring" or "a cyclohexane ring". Support is also found in the specification (Page 8, Lines 2-9) where X_1 and X_2 are described as "selected from" a list of monocyclic rings.

Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and change wording to be consistent with U.S. patent law practice.

Claims 8-20 are new and are supported by original Claims 6 and 7 and the specification.

No new matter has been added in the present amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-20 will be active.

ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha and Jafar Parsa for the discussion of the case on December 14, 2006. The arguments which follow are based on that discussion.

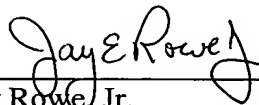
The rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 USC 102(b) over Ukita et al. is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 now states that X₁ and X₂ are monocyclic. Applicants submit that Ukita et al. fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. The prior art of Ukita et al. is drawn to a bicyclic substituted Isoquinoline ring where the present application is drawn to a monocyclic group such as a benzene or cyclohexane ring. Applicants submit that the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited prior art.

In view of the argument presented above, Applicants submit that the 102(b) rejection has been overcome and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the present above identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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